IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

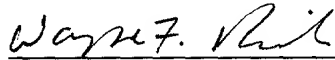Applicants: Gregg et al.

Serial No.:

Filed:

Title: METHOD OF CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF INFORMATION
               BETWEEN SENDERS AND RECEIVERS ACROSS LINKS BEING USED
               AS CHANNELS

<u>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</u>

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S.
Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box PATENT
APPLICATION, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
20231, on June 5, 2001.

Wayne F. Reinke
Wayne F. Reinke
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 36,650

Date of Signature: June 5, 2001.

To: Box PATENT APPLICATION
       Assistant Commissioner for Patents
       Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered, prior to
examination of the above-referenced divisional patent application.

<u>In the Specification:</u>

At page 1, replace the second paragraph, lines 12-15, with the following paragraph:

"SYSTEM OF CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN
SENDERS AND RECEIVERS ACROSS LINKS BEING USED AS CHANNELS," by
Gregg et al., Serial No. 09/150,942 (Docket No. PO9-98-124); and

At page 1, replace the third paragraph, lines 16-19, with the following paragraph:

"SYSTEM OF CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN SENDERS AND RECEIVERS ACROSS LINKS BEING USED AS CHANNELS," by Gregg et al., Serial No. 09/151,117 (Docket No. PO9-98-125).

At page 3, replace the third paragraph, lines 21-31 through page 4, lines 1-4, with the following paragraph:

The shortcomings of the prior art are overcome and additional advantages are provided through the provision of a method of controlling the flow of information between senders and receivers of data. The method includes, for instance, including in a packet a sequence number usable in maintaining delivery order of said packet, said packet having no memory address and requiring no explicit individual response; sending said packet from a sender to a receiver across a link; and using said sequence number to determine if said packet is in proper order for processing by said receiver.

At page 4, insert the following paragraph before the second paragraph, line 16:

In another aspect of the present invention, a method of controlling the flow of information across links between senders and receivers is provided. The method includes, for instance, including in a packet a continue indicator usable in determining whether another packet is to follow; sending the packet from a sender to a receiver across a link; and using the continue indicator to determine if the another packet is to follow.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-2 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

3. (New) A method of controlling the flow of information across links between senders and receivers, said method comprising:

including in a packet a sequence number usable in maintaining delivery order of said packet, said packet having no memory address and requiring no explicit individual response;

sending said packet from a sender to a receiver across a link; and

using said sequence number to determine if said packet is in proper order for processing by said receiver.

4.   (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said using comprises:

comparing said sequence number with a sequence count of said receiver;

determining, when said comparing indicates an inequality, whether said sequence number is a predetermined amount more than said sequence count; and

indicating an error when said sequence number is not said predetermined amount more than said sequence count.

5.   (New) A method of controlling the flow of information across links between senders and receivers, said method comprising:

including in a packet a continue indicator usable in determining whether another packet is to follow said packet;

sending said packet from a sender to a receiver across a link; and

using said continue indicator to determine if said another packet is to follow.

6.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein an end of a buffer area is specified when said continue indicator is off.

7.   (New) The method of claim 6, further comprising setting an error indication, when another packet is received for said buffer area and said continue indicator is off.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were originally presented in the parent application, but were canceled in a Preliminary Amendment dated December 8, 1998 and claims 3-23 added. The Office Action dated May 8, 2001 in the parent application restricted the claims under 35 U.S.C. §121, between Group I including claims 3-18, and Group II including claims 19-23. In response, Applicants canceled claims 19-23 and elected the Group I claims (i.e., 3-18) for examination in the parent application. Applicants are herein pursuing claims 19-23, now re-

numbered as claims 3-7 in this divisional patent application. Therefore, claims 3-7 remain pending in this case.

Applicants have amended FIG. 12 to correct a typographical error. FIG. 12, as originally filed in the parent application, incorrectly indicated reference numeral 1200 as 1204. FIG. 12 as filed herein correctly indicates reference numeral 1200.
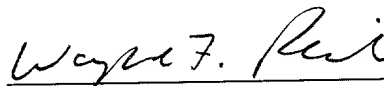
Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification and, therefore, no new matter has been added. The amendments to the specification are requested in order to conform the Summary of the Invention to the new claims.

Applicants respectfully request substantive examination of claims 3-7.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

CONCLUSION

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

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Dated: June 5, 2001.

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

At page 1, revise the second paragraph, line 14, as follows:

"SYSTEM OF CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN SENDERS AND RECEIVERS ACROSS LINKS BEING USED AS CHANNELS," by Gregg et al., Serial No. ——————, 09/150,942 (Docket No. PO9-98-124); and

At page 1, revise the third paragraph, line 18, as follows:

"SYSTEM OF CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN SENDERS AND RECEIVERS ACROSS LINKS BEING USED AS CHANNELS," by Gregg et al., Serial No. ——————, 09/151,117 (Docket No. PO9-98-125).

At page 3, revise the third paragraph, lines 24-31 through page 4, lines 1-4, as follows:

The shortcomings of the prior art are overcome and additional advantages are provided through the provision of a method of controlling the flow of information ~~across links between senders and receivers. The method includes, for instance, sending a request from a sender to a receiver over a link; forwarding a data request indication from the receiver to the sender in response to the request, in which the data request indication indicates that the receiver is prepared to receive further information from the sender; and providing, by the sender, in response to the data request indication, the further information. While the receiver is preparing for the further information, the link is being used as a channel in that the link is not stopped~~ between senders and receivers of data. The method includes, for instance, including in a packet a sequence number usable in maintaining delivery order of said packet, said packet having no memory address and requiring no explicit individual response; sending said packet from a sender to a receiver across a link; and using said sequence number to determine if said packet is in proper order for processing by said receiver.

At page 4, insert the following paragraph before the second paragraph, line 16:

In another aspect of the present invention, a method of controlling the flow of information across links between senders and receivers is provided. The method includes, for instance, including in a packet a continue indicator usable in determining whether another packet is to follow; sending the packet from a sender to a receiver across a link; and using the continue indicator to determine if the another packet is to follow.